**MINUTES OF THE MEETING**

**Achieving a Better Life Experience Program Committee**

Wednesday September 20, 2017 at 2:30 pm

Victory Building Conference Room, Suite 275 -- Little Rock, AR 72201

A meeting of the Arkansas Achieving a Better Life Experience Program Committee (“Committee”) was held on Wednesday, September 20, 2017 at 2:30 pm in the Victory Building Conference Room, Suite 275. Present at the meeting were Grant Wallace with the Treasurer’s Office; Director of 529 Programs and Financial Education Emma Willis; 529 Programs and Financial Education Administrative Assistant Chris Scott; Dave Mills Department of Human Services Program Administrator (Designee for Director of Human Services); Joseph Baxter Deputy Commissioner Arkansas Rehabilitation Services (Designee for the Commissioner of Arkansas Rehabilitation Services Department of Career Education).

The press was notified in compliance with the Freedom of Information Act.

Grant Wallace called the meeting to order at 2:32 pm.

Emma Willis provided the committee with the 529 ABLE Request For Proposals responses. Emma stated that the committee should re-convene in October, after the committee has had ample time to review and score the RFP’s, and that she would provide a scoring sheet after the meeting. It was explained that only the technical proposals were being scored initially, and when the committee re-convenes the pricing proposals will then be reviewed.

Dave Mills made a report on the promulgation process, stating that it is complete. He explained that various people are reaching out to inquire about the ABLE program.

Emma Willis stated that in the RFP process a couple of proposals came in through the National ABLE Alliance, as well as the state of Virginia and the state of Ohio. These states would be acting as a ‘pull’ of funds from Arkansan’s into a national pool of other money. Opting to go through one of these ‘alliances’ would require us to go through an Administrative Procedure Act (APA). Emma stated that she has consulted with attorneys and it is the consensus that we do need to go through APA to establish rules that state that the committee, should they choose, has the opportunity to go into another states program. Emma stated that she would go through the APA via an ‘emergency status’ to accelerate the timeline to have a provider in place and asked the committee to initiate the APA as a contingency. Emma advised that this would push back the launch of the program to December 1st.

The date for the next ABLE meeting is October 11, 2017 at 1:00 pm.

There being no further business, Grant Wallace (serving as proxy for Treasurer Milligan) moved to adjourn the meeting and the meeting adjourned at 2:55pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Emma Willis, Director of 529 Programs and Financial Education